

Lughnasadh '09 with Treibh na Tintean

Cleansing

South: We call upon you, southern Fire, bring us cleansing heat / As in the womb of Earth, so will it bring forth its fruits; / Fire and Water, elements of the storm which bring us rain. / It is the time of Summer and the promise of the harvest.

West: Bright Sun bakes the Earth with heat and dries the flowers of Spring; / But it is not death that we see, but life reformed, / For each flower bears its seeds, growing deep within itself / So that life will continue and there will be another Spring.

North: Come, then, Lughnasadh, first harvest of Summer, / Bring to us the promise of Autumn, / Of that which will feed us and keep us from the cold; / So let us dance and play while the Earth permits.

East: For as we see the high days of Summer, / So do we remember the cold that is to come; / For the Earth remembers and prepares, / So that Summer will bring yet another Spring.

Calling the Directions –

EAST: Warm Airs that carry seeds to the waiting Earth, I call and charge you. Let Your singing winds fill my heart with the canticle of the Mysteries. Hail, Air, Hail!

SOUTH: Warm Rays of Sun that nurture seeds to maturity, I call and charge you. Let Your burning forge temper my spirit through the fires of creation. Hail, Fire, Hail!

WEST: Warm Water that saturates Earth's seeds to grow, I call and charge you. From you am I born, from ocean's waves by sea and spray and mist. Hail, Water, Hail!

NORTH: Warm Earth that roots seeds in its womb, I call and charge you. Let your Rich soil grant my spirit sanctuary in the house of the ancients. Hail, Earth, Hail!

ALL 4: Great Spirit who gives life to the seeds, I call and charge you. Let your Presence bind the elements together and birth the grains of magic in me. Hail, Spirit, Hail!

Casting the circle (all)— We cast this circle as sons and daughters, / Spinners and weavers, / Toolmakers, potters; / As dancers and dreamers, / Fixers, changers, / Singers and screamers. / We cast this circle with our ancestors and guardians, / God and Goddess too, / You who teach and who speak true, / Who plant, who reap, / Who soar, who creep, / Who cook, who drum, / Who have been and yet to come, / Unreasonable women, / Unmanageable men. / We cast as pagan, heathen and witches, Loving hearts or furious bitches. / We are sweet water, we are the seed; / We are the storm wind to blow away greed. / Into this circle we bring to birth the love that reclaims our earth. / So mote it be!

Covenant – As we gather here in our sacred space, a circle is formed and we are connected in spirit. So mote it be.

Invoking the God – Lord of the heaven, Lugh of the sun, Lord of the hunt and forests, we invoke thee by all thy names. Come unto us and honor our circle. Mighty One, our Lord, all honor to thee, consort of the Goddess, come, I call upon thee. Descend and be with us now. So mote it be.

Invoking the Goddess – We invoke and call upon thee, threefold Goddess. Queen of the moonlit sea, thee, we invoke. Mother of the moon and calm waters, let thy light fall upon us. We call upon thee, Widow of the waning moon whose children have grown. Guard us with learning and understanding. Descend and be with us now. So mote it be.

Food for Thought

SOUTH: Lughnasadh is a festival of regrets and farewells, of harvest and preserves. Think first of the things you planned to do this summer that are not coming to fruition. What do you regret? Or, perhaps something is passing from your life.

NORTH: What do you need to say goodbye to? Take a moment to ponder these; when you are ready, project these regrets or farewells onto the pinecone. Then toss it into the fire!

All: I vow to savor fruits first picked; not into grief shall I be tricked. I vow to offer what once I spurred, and face the Turning Wheel assured.

Thanksgiving Prayer

EAST: Sisters and brothers of this circle, let us take a moment for thought. Think back and remember the dark of the year, the time when we cleansed our circle and planted our first seeds. The seeds have grown and flourished. Now we must harvest.

All: We know this and fully understand the meaning behind the symbol.

SOUTH: Remember the words and actions. As this symbol was so planted, may the ideals of our faith be planted in the fertile soil of our minds.

All: We remember well the spoken prayer.

WEST: Remember too that we asked the Lord and Lady for a blessing for the seed.

All: We remember the words and deeds.

NORTH: The Lady breathed life into the seed.

All: We recall all that was done in the Mother's name and the thoughts beyond the actions.

ALL 4: (snip plant) The price is paid, the sacrifice taken.

All: May we take away with us some small part of the wisdom of the Mother, let it grow within us and may we return to share it with our circle.

Communion

WEST: Take a piece for yourself, but don't eat it yet! Pass the plate to your left saying, "I pass to you this gift of the first harvest." (*Pass communion after putting some in fire.*)

NORTH: We give thanks for those who grant us the first fruits of the harvest. It is appropriate that we remember to thank Lugh, for it is Lughnasadh!

EAST: We offer this wine to Lugh, in thanks for his sacrifice. (*Pour a bit of mead on fire then pass mead and juice.*)

SOUTH: All goodly powers, grant us blessing! So mote it be.

(*When all have a piece of bread...*)

ALL: As the grain dies, it transforms to bread, / and brings us life through the winter. We bless this bread, and it blesses us in return, / and we are thankful for the gift of the harvest.

Thanking the God & Goddess (all) – The God and Goddess have witnessed our workings and only they will measure our purposes and our hearts. We ask that they are with us all our days, guiding our feet and lighting our paths. We ask that They are with us in our lives and in our deaths. Let the candles be put out, but let us not forget what we have learned. Blessed Be!

Thanking the Directions

- EAST:** Lord of the Wind, your seed carries the promise of future harvests. As we sow, so we reap, and sow again. Go in peace. Blessed be!
- NORTH:** Mother Earth, your bounty sustains and blesses all. Let it nourish our spirits and bodies. Go in peace. Blessed be!
- WEST:** Lady of the Seas, of the cleansing, nourishing waters, thank you for flowing into our lives. Leave drops of wisdom with us. Go in peace. Blessed be!
- SOUTH:** Lord of the Sun, master of the Fire, thank you for ripening the crops and our souls. Energize this magic, as you go in peace. Blessed be!
- ALL 4:** Lord and Lady of Creation, thank you for watching over the seeds in the earth and in our hearts. Manifest this magic within us. Go in peace. Blessed be!

Opening the Circle – They ripen fruit; They ripen seed; the God and Goddess fill our need. This circle is open, but unbroken. Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again!